

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 19 and 21 to 24 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please add new Claims 25 to 31 and amend the claims as shown below.

The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An online shopping method ~~by the server that controls the status of use of said consumable goods the first consumable goods that handles the consumable goods offers, further~~ executed in a system having a server function of controlling a status of use of at least one consumable used upon printing in a printing device, said method comprising:

~~calculation a reception step that receives~~ of receiving the status of the use of the at least one consumable goods used in the printing device ~~via the predetermined a communication line by the server function; and~~

a calculation step of calculating a service point according to the status of the use of the at least one consumable received in said reception step;

a relation registration step of, when a customer purchases merchandise provided by a consumable trader on a service based on the service point calculated in said calculation step via a predetermined purchase screen, causing a storage portion to register the service and the consumable trader in relation to each other; and

a compensation decision step that decides the of deciding a compensation based on said discount price, paid to said second to the consumable goods trader in accordance with the fact that said customer purchases the merchandise the second consumable goods trader offers at the discount price based on said point via the

predetermined communication line based on the service registered in relation to the consumable trader in said relation registration step.

~~21. to 24. (Canceled)~~

25. (New) A method according to claim 20, further comprising a second reception step of receiving compensation request information from a second consumable trader, wherein said compensation decision step comprises verifying authentication of the compensation request information received in said second reception step based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated in said calculation step.

26. (New) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the status of the use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

27. (New) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the service based on the service point includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.

28. (New) An online shopping a system, comprising:  
a server having a server function of controlling a status of use of at least one consumable used upon printing in a printing device;

reception means for receiving the status of the use of the at least one consumable used in the printing device via a communication line by the server function;

a calculation means for calculating a service point according to the status of the use of the at least one consumable received by said reception means;

a relation registration means that, when a customer purchases merchandise provided by a consumable trader on a service based on the service point calculated by said calculation means via a predetermined purchase screen, causes a storage portion to register the service and the consumable trader in relation to each other; and

a compensation decision means for deciding a compensation to the consumable trader based on the service registered in relation to the consumable trader by said relation registration means.

29. (New) A system according to claim 28, further comprising a second reception means for receiving compensation request information from a second consumable trader, wherein said compensation decision means comprises verifying means for verifying authentication of the compensation request information received by said second reception means based on the received compensation request information and the service point calculated by said calculation means.

30. (New) A system according to Claim 28, wherein the status of the use of the at least one consumable includes a consumption amount of the consumable.

31. (New) A system according to Claim 28, wherein the service based on the service point includes a price discount, and the compensation includes a refund or an incentive.